

KAUR switches over to all country music

BY SLIM PICKINS

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The music world was turned on its ear today at Augustana College when current music program director Kris Thraen announced that, for the duration of the summer, KAUR would be playing only country music.

Rumors of this impending change had been circulating at the station since Spring Break, during which time Thraen had been re-routed on a flight to Nashville due to the immense weather patterns at that time. When she got back to campus, other DJ's began to notice changes.

"She's got a new kind of walk," DJ Paul Krueger said.

"She's got a new kind of talk," DJ Greg Rockvam added.

"She's gone country," Station Manager Andrew Buntrock said. "It's hard to fathom that, after all we've done this year and all the positive changes we've made, she'll be blasting the Charlie Daniels Band over the airwaves with our new equipment. Oh well. What do I care? I'm graduating."

Despite having been named station manager for the '96-'97 school year, Wendy Underwood, who doesn't favor the changes, will not be able to return the station to its alternative broadcasting until she returns from Russia, where she will be staying



Photo by Billy Bob Rogers

Kris Thraen and KAUR now have both kinds of music: country AND western.

this summer.

"Listening to all of those alternative anarchy songs made me realize that it has been far too long since there was a real revolution in Russia," Underwood said. "Therefore I decided to go overthrow the government this summer, and since I can't run the station while I'm spilling the blood of heartless oppressors, I'm leaving Kris in charge."

Subtle changes have already been made to KAUR's lineup. Faithful listeners were surprised to hear Garth Brooks' album "Fresh Horses" on Virgin Vinyl last Thursday.

"I know that Garth Brooks doesn't meet the requirement of having a group name containing

at least one adjective," Thraen said, "but I felt the album needed to be heard."

"The first time I heard Kris say 'y'all' just about gave me a coronary," said DJ Rylee Retzler. "She was leaning back in the chair in the broadcast booth with her feet in a pair of sh...kickers up on the control board. I would have said something, but I think I flat-lined for a moment."

An informal poll of three people waiting in line for the use of the e-mail terminals in the Back Alley showed that KAUR's audience had doubled to 66 percent of Augustana students since a similar poll taken before Spring Break.

Dennis Tischhauser was unavailable for comment.

"Yeah, I've heard her show," said sophomore Hilary Clark. "I heard it over the phone lines I think. It's hard to tell what station is interfering with the telephone signal sometimes, though."

"It was KAUR," said sophomore Tamra Wille, "I remember because they were begging for callers, and not even public radio sounds that desperate."

The third pollee, Aaron Beukelman, had no comment on the matter of KAUR's changes.

"Get that mike outta my face," Beukelman said. "I'm typing here."